

LXV.—*Coleoptera of the Mt. Everest Expedition, 1921.*

By K. G. BLAIR, B.Sc., F.E.S.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE collection of Coleoptera obtained by the Expedition during the summer of 1921 is unfortunately very meagre, consisting only of twenty-one specimens belonging to eight species, and divided among seven families. Most of them were obtained in July at the camp above Rhumbu Glacier, north-west of Everest, at an elevation of 18,500 feet. In spite of its meagreness, the collection is interesting in containing three species that are here described as new to science, as well as two others that are probably new, but both are represented by single specimens, too incomplete to warrant description. Several of the species here recorded were obtained in greater number by the members of the Thibet Expedition of 1904 at somewhat lower altitudes.

It is greatly to be hoped that more sustained efforts will be made during the coming season to secure a collection more representative of this faunistically interesting region. Opportunities of collecting in regions so difficult of access are few, and when they do occur it is a thousand pities if they are not seized to the fullest.

The following is a list of the species obtained, all of which have now been placed in the National Collection at South Kensington.

## Fam. Silphidæ.

*Necrophorus semenowi*, Reitter, Ent. Nachr. xxi. 1887, p. 216.

One specimen.

Described from Thibet, the species was not previously represented in the British Museum.

## Fam. Elateridæ.

*Lacon brunnipennis*, Candèze, Mon. Elat. i. 1857, p. 133.

One specimen.

Also from Tungu, Teesta Valley, Sikkim, by Thibet Expedition, 1903-04.

## Fam. Rutelidæ.

*Callistopopillia iris*, Candèze, Col. Hefte, v. 1869, p. 43.

One specimen.

Represented in the British Museum by numerous speci-

mens from Kurseong, Mungphu, and Darjeeling, and from Yatong, Thibet.

Fam. Tenebrionidæ.

*Blaps tibetana*, sp. n.

Stout, moderately convex above; antennæ short, not reaching base of thorax, joints 4-7 not twice as long as wide. Thorax transverse, convex, sides rounded, distinctly narrowed to base, disc moderately densely and strongly punctate. Elytra broad, moderately convex, sharply declivous behind, not produced at apex, lateral margin visible from above nearly to middle; disc finely rugose, with numerous small backwardly directed granules which are subseriately arranged, with numerous faintly indicated impressed striæ. Legs not very long, femora feebly clavate, anterior and intermediate tibiæ slightly curved, the former not emarginate at base; first joint of posterior tarsi longer than the two following together, asymmetrical at apex, *i. e.* the inner side longer than the outer, the second and third joints elongate, triangular, but not twice as long as wide.

♂ with hair-pad between first and second abdominal segments, the former with transverse folds immediately behind coxæ, but no tubercle and no caudal prolongation of elytra; shape slightly more slender than that of ♀.

Length 16 mm.

Two ♂♂ and three ♀♀ collected by present expedition; numerous examples of both sexes from Gyantse, 13,000 feet, June 1904.

The species would appear to fall into Abth. ii. gr. 3 of Seidlitz's table, and to resemble *B. rugulipennis*, Fairm., in the absence of a caudal prolongation to the elytra, but from this it differs in the shorter antennæ and tarsi. In general aspect it is, perhaps, most like *B. rugosa*, Gebl., but has the thorax more transverse, more convex, and more narrowed behind, the elytra very much more finely, and differently sculptured with about eighteen faint striæ more or less clearly indicated.

*Blaps apicecostata*, sp. n.

Elongate, narrow, subnitid, dorsum depressed; antennæ reaching base of thorax (♀) or extending beyond it (♂). joints 4-7 twice as long as wide, 8-10 moniliform; thorax not very strongly convex, a little wider than long, the disc finely and densely but rather irregularly punctate; elytra depressed on the back, the lateral carina visible from above in its

anterior half, being concealed in its posterior half by a blunt costa, which projects above it and meets its fellow at the apex. On the disc are faint indications of striae with feebly convex intervals; these become a little more raised behind, especially the third, which unites with the marginal costa (7th interval) a little before the apex. The apex in both sexes projects a little beyond the last ventral segment, but is not produced into a caudal process. Prosternal process rounded, declivous behind coxæ; legs moderately slender, femora feebly clavate, first joint of posterior tarsi symmetrical, as long as the two following together.

♂ without abdominal fascicle, longer and narrower than ♀.

Size, ♂ 21 × 7.5 mm., ♀ 19 × 8 mm.

Two ♀ ♀ collected by the present Expedition, two ♂ ♂ and two ♀ ♀ by the Tibet Expedition, Tungu, Sikkim, July 1903 (1 ♀), and Gyantse, 13,000 feet, June 1904.

In the synopsis given by Seidlitz (Erichs. Ins. Deutsch. Abt. i. Bd. v. 1898), this species would come in Abth. ii. gr. 14, next to *B. gentilis*, Fairm. From this it differs in its larger size, narrower form, stouter legs, more distinctly granulate elytra, and the very characteristic costæ visible on the apical declivity.

In this last particular it is approached by *B. indica*, Hope, from Nepal, but the latter is much smaller (14 mm.), has the thorax much narrower than the elytra, which are strongly rounded laterally.

#### *Blaps* sp.

A single ♀, possibly only a form of the last.

#### Fam. Cistelidæ. (ALLECULIDÆ.)

#### *Cteniopinus semicoccineus*, sp. n.

Dull black, with the elytra and abdomen scarlet. Head elongate, densely punctate above; antennæ slender, in ♂ reaching middle of elytra, in ♀ a little shorter, second joint not longer than wide, the rest elongate, the eleventh suddenly constricted so that the apical third is much narrower than the rest. Last joint of maxillary palpi elongate, a little longer and wider than the preceding. Thorax nearly flat, campanulate, widest at base, sides sharply carinate in basal half, but obtuse or rounded towards apex, disc densely punctate. Elytra subparallel, striae sharply punctate, but not much impressed, the first, third, fifth, etc. intervals narrower than the rest, the broad intervals containing small

irregular depressions defined by circles of punctures; these circles become very irregular and confluent with the striæ, so that on the central portion of the wing striæ and circles become hopelessly confused. Prosternal process raised above level of coxæ, but not projecting behind them; abdomen scarlet, with the posterior edges of the third and fourth segments black, posterior coxæ rounded behind, slightly protruding over first abdominal segment; the latter fits closely up against it, but is of a softish texture, and does not form a sharp marginal rim to the coxal cavity; the intercoxal process also is depressed between the coxæ, not flush with the metasternum; intermediate and posterior tibiæ arcuate.

♂ with sixth abdominal segment deeply excavate and emarginate, the anterior and intermediate tarsi elongate, first joint scarcely longer than second; in the ♀ it is nearly twice as long.

Length 13-15 mm.

One ♂ and two ♀ ♀.

The general appearance of this insect is very much that of a *Cistelomorpha*, and the confused elytral striæ recall those of *C. hæmatica*, Redt., but the formation of the posterior coxæ and the articulation of metathorax and abdomen preclude its being placed in that genus. A closely allied species, but with dark blue-black elytra with very much deeper impressions giving them an irregular crumbled appearance, with similar bright red abdomen with black transverse bands between the third and fourth, and fourth and fifth segments, bears the name *Lechinius catenulatus* (Bates MS.) in the British Museum Collection. It is from Sikkim.

#### Fam. Meloidæ.

*Mylabris* (*Pseudabris*?) *przewalskyi*, Dokhtoureff, Horæ Soc. Ent. Ross. xxi. 1887, p. 341; xxiv. 1890, pl. i. figs. 11, 12.

Six specimens by the present Expedition; numerous examples from Gyantse, 13,000 feet, June 1904, Lhasa, August and September 1904, and Khamba Jong, Sikkim, (15,000-16,000 feet), July 1903, by the Thibet Expedition, 1903-04.

This species is labelled by Dr. Creighton Wellman "*Pseudabris tigridera*, Fairm. (?)," but the identity appears to me doubtful. *Pseudabris* is described as being wingless with short metasternum and slightly dehiscent elytra, while the antennæ are stated to be not thicker towards the apex. The abdomen is also said to project considerably beyond the

elytra, which is seldom the case in *M. przewalskyi*. The description of the form of the head, the sculpture, and coloration of the elytra agree well with this species, but the characters cited above indicate a different, though perhaps closely allied, genus.

Fam. Curculionidæ.

*Leptomias* sp.

Allied to *L. waltoni*, Marshall, from Sikkim; the single specimen is incomplete and insufficiently well preserved for description.

LXVI.—*The Mordellidæ of the Fiji Islands.*

By K. G. BLAIR, B.Sc., F.E.S.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

A SINGLE species of this interesting family appears to have been hitherto recorded from the Fiji Islands, viz., *Mordellistena dodoneæ*, Montr., originally described from New Caledonia. A small collection sent from time to time to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology for identification contains not less than nine species, including that mentioned. Of the others one species is identified with some doubt as *Mordella 10-guttata*, F.; the rest appear to be new.

Only two genera are represented, *Mordella* and *Mordellistena*. The species of the latter are very similar to the small species of *Mordella*, but are distinguished by the presence on the outer face of the posterior tibiæ and first three tarsal joints of series of stiff bristles forming comb-like ridges; these extend from the posterior edge of the tibiæ and run obliquely upwards but usually not right across the external face of the tibia.

*Key to the Species of Mordella.*

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Large species (10 mm. or over), black, clothed with black pubescence varied with numerous white spots . . . . .                  | 2.                     |
| Small species (less than 5 mm.), black or fuscous, clothed with black pubescence, varied with silvery-grey spots or bands . . . . . | 3.                     |
| 2. Elytra with scutellar white spots; four confluent white spots along base of thorax . . . . .                                     | <i>10-guttata</i> , F. |